Abdulmajeed Alotaibi

ESL 220

Leah Stahl

Speech draft 1

07/12/2011

I want to pose a simple question for you all ladies and gentlemen: Have you ever met someone who has touched and made a difference in your life? If your answer is yes, then, I am with you in sharing the pleasure and opportunity to have known different people who have touched us in different ways. It’s just that in my case, he was my previous English teacher in Aramco Industrial Training Center. His name was Rommel. Well, everyone fondly called him “Mr. Rommel”. As a new ITC trainee then, I was interesting why he was the only one teacher ever called with “mister” attached to his name. Other teachers were just addressed as “sir” or simply called by their last names. I thought then, “Something is different in this teacher”. And yes, I found out what made Mr. Rommel a special teacher.

I remember so well, during our first meeting in his class, he exuded some sort of ambiguity. This was compounded some more when he said “I am 51”. This was in response to my classmates' question about his age. “I am 51”. His remarks made us laugh, he was so young looking he could hardly be 35. We knew he was just kidding, but the more he became mysterious to me. He was funny.

Mr. Rommel was very young, he was only 31 then, yet he had already accomplished a lot. Before coming to Saudi, he was a university professor in Manila and Hong Kong teaching English and Journalism. He showed me one time an excellent copy of an English book entitled “Communication Arts 1”. To my surprise, he was the author of the book. I’ve learned a lot of things from him. When I lost the drive to continue my education due to personal reasons, he was there to tell me that “education is my best weapon to battle the adversities in life”. Truly, Mr. Rommel was a positive influence in my life. I wouldn’t be here in front of you today hadn’t I listened to him to value education.

Now, I know why he kept saying he was 51 years old – his experience and knowledge made him the most learnt person I’ve ever met.